

The FCC should heed the views of flight attendants and decline to permit cellular telephone use aboard airborne aircraft. The issue is not interference. There are technical ways to deal with that. The issue is the dreadful conflicts the boorish use of cellphones that we are all used to on the ground, as people shout into the air oblivious to the people around them. Even outdoors, walking has become unpleasant. In closed spaces, of which airline lounges are among the most disagreeable, more and more boors think that it is our fault that their shouting disturbs them. Not wishing to be forced to land by a pilot because that is the only way to quell a rude passenger--with or without a phone--I want the FCC to maintain the ban.

I long for the days that it was not allowed to use it aboard the aircraft even when the doors were open. In fact, many carriers make you go out to the jetway if you really, really, really have to make a call. That would work for me, and in a confined space some of the boors who make our lives miserable might realize how distracting their shouting is.

I will certainly patronize airlines that forbid cellphone use in flight, even if the FCC caves to lobbyists, lawyers and boors and US carriers decide to go along.

Shifting the problem to another government agency, and ultimately to law enforcement when the din creates an incident that police on the ground have to settle, would be irresponsible of the FCC.